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Rebecca Sargent

03-15-06

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Attorney Docket No. P400342

IN THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No.: 10/820,211  
Applicant: Thilo Roeth et al.  
Filed: 04/07/2004  
TC/A.U.: 3612  
Examiner: Joseph D. Pape

Customer No.:46155

MS Non-Fee Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

March 14, 2006

**AMENDMENT**

Sir:

In response to the Office action of December 14, 2005, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendment to the specification** are reflected in the amended first page and pages 6 and 8 of the specification and is demonstrated starting on page 3 of this paper. The amended first page reflects the fact that this application is based on a PCT application that claims priority to a German patent application. Further, on pages 6 (“Brief description of the drawings”) and on page 8 reference has been made to the new Figure 3.

**Amendments to the abstract** are reflected in that the abstract comprises one paragraph only as shown on page 10 of this paper.

**Amendments to the claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 11 of this paper. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. In particular, new claims 1 to 18 are submitted, substituting of the previous set of claims 1 to 17. In the new set of claims, claim 14 has been clarified by removing the optional feature of the beads. As a result, a new independent claim 15 has been inserted, depending on claim 14.

**Amendments to the drawings** are reflected in an attached new drawing page with a new Figure 3.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 14 of this paper.